

**DATE:** March 26, 2018

**TO:** RMC Governing Board

**FROM:** Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

**SUBJECT:** Item 8D: Project and Liaison Activities

### RMC ACTIVITY

Lower Los Angeles River Working Group (AB 530): On February 1, 2018, the Lower LA River Working Group met for the last time as a working group to unanimously approve the Lower LA River Revitalization Plan (LLARRP). On February 28, 2018, the RMC and LA County Department of Public Works traveled to the State Capitol in Sacramento to provide an overview to California Natural Resources Agency Secretary John Laird, regarding the Plan as well as a group of legislators hosted by the Speaker of the California Assembly the Honorable Anthony Rendon, and legislators whose district includes the Los Angeles River. The next step is a signing ceremony for Secretary Laird, as a representative for the State of California, for formal acceptance and approval of the completed Plan. That Signing event is being planned on April 6, 2018, in coordination with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works and will take place along the Lower Los Angeles River at the Confluence of the LA River and the Rio Hondo, in the City of South Gate. The event will include the Lower LA River Working Group, Federal, State and local County representatives.



The



Working Group was created by Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon through Assembly Bill 530. The working group's goal was to create a robust restoration plan that lays the groundwork for revitalizing Lower Los Angeles River that connects residents to the river flowing through their communities. Members of the Working Group were appointed by John Laird, Secretary of California Natural Resources Agency upon recommendation by the County of Los Angeles First District Supervisor Hilda Solis includes 39 members including 12 southeast cities, 16 Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the First, Second and Fourth Supervisorial Districts, the business sector and the public.

The plan identifies 155 potential projects in the study area that can be implemented as part of this revitalization effort. The next phase includes the establishment of an Interim Advisory Group (IAG) to begin identifying the projects that can begin the implementation phase.

*Additional information can be found on the Lower LA River Working Group website: [www.lowerlariver.org](http://www.lowerlariver.org)*

### **RMC ACTIVE PROJECTS**

De Forest Park Wetland Restoration Project (RMC10006): This project is in full construction which began in late Spring 2017 and the City of Long Beach has started construction and anticipates completion by early 2018.

Camp Shiwaka Urban Forest and Discovery Trail (RMC 13005): RMC provided funding for the development and enhancement of Camp Fire's urban forest and a new trail at Camp Shiwaka which includes extensive native landscaping, interpretive signage, improved ADA accessibility and additional improvements to the outdoor amphitheater. Camp Shiwaka has received additional funds to complete their trail improvements as part of the Long Beach Bike Trail and with matching funds from the LA County Prop A funds. Currently, Camp Shiwaka is working towards finalizing all aspects of construction from the RMC Grant funds.

Willowbrook Walking Path/Compton Creek (14003): The RMC provided a grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Los Angeles Conservation Corps as part of the Willowbrook Walking Path Compton Creek extension. The LACC applied for an Urban Greening Grant through the Strategic Growth Council and was awarded the full request in the amount of \$798,815. Additional matching funds were committed by other project partners including the State Coastal Conservancy and the Office of Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas (2nd District). Matching funds provided by the funding partners and the grant funds received by the Strategic Growth Council bring the total project cost to \$1,698,815.

This project includes the creation of a ½ mile permeable walking path and 2,700 linear foot by 6 foot riprap swale constructed with river rock to capture debris and treat runoff before it enters Compton Creek.

Due to a change in staff by the LACC, they will submit their request to extend the grant to the Coastal Conservancy, at an upcoming Coastal Conservancy board meeting in 2018. There have also been slight delays due to the approvals required by the Army Corps of Engineers for the construction documents, since the improvements are adjacent to the Compton Creek. Progress pending approval from Army Corps.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project (RMC14002): This project is complete. The RMC \$98,000 in grant funds for the project located in the City of Long Beach at intersection of Studebaker Road and Westminster Avenue included the following enhancements: (1) development and improvements of a trail network in and around Los Cerritos Wetlands specifically at Zedler Marsh, (2) install interpretive signage and associated native landscaping and (3) remove trash, debris, non-native plants, improve fencing and gates, install temporary irrigation and improve the native plant nursery through development of an outdoor laboratory and classroom. A Grand Opening Celebration took place Saturday September 30, 2017.

Recycled Water Campus, San Gabriel River Parkway (RMC 17004): Grant was approved by RMC Board and the project is underway. Grant from the RMC is for \$1,000,000.

This project supports low-impact development stormwater management features, such as swales, landscaping and permeable pavements and walkways; a stormwater capture system to augment the recycled

water supply and reduce flood risk. In addition, this project will create habitat for Monarch butterflies, a migratory species proposed for endangered species candidate status; and create 3.5 acres of park-like open space with public access to the San Gabriel River. The project includes many interpretive and education aspects with an outdoor amphitheater, demonstration gardens for native plants, eco-friendly gardening, stormwater and butterflies, multi-lingual signage, and other visitor facilities focused on water education, and provides multiple benefits to economically disadvantaged communities. This project is part of the Groundwater Reliability Improvement Project (GRIP), fully funded at \$119 million. GRIP broke ground in July 2016. Last than one year remains until the grand opening.

Bassett High School Campus Green Infrastructure Project (RMC 17005): Grant from the RMC is for \$652,520, project is underway. This project will enhance campus “green infrastructure”, urban habitat, and demonstrate sustainable public landscaping in terms of water use, improved infiltration, and storm water management. Bassett High School is located in underserved area of La Puente, in San Gabriel River sub watershed. The region’s impervious grey infrastructure impairs groundwater recharge and infiltration. Proposed Green Infrastructure retrofits will reduce water use on campus by systematic turf grass reduction: planting over 2700 native, drought-tolerant trees & shrubs in mulched planters to enhance biodiversity, and absorb storm water and run-off. Creating a thriving Urban Forest on campus will clean air and sequester greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Urban Heat Island Effect through shade cover. Creation of bioswales, and strategic permeable surface retrofits will collect, capture, and infiltrate storm water from campus preventing runoff from entering storm drain systems and impacting our watershed’s health. Interpretive elements will raise awareness of water resources challenges and help create the next generation of environmental stewards. The project will encourage underserved students and community residents to participate in habitat restoration and water resources protection, explore and enjoy the campus, and learn how to connect to the region’s surrounding natural areas.

City of Cudahy Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan (RMC 17003): The City of Cudahy Long Range Water Conservation and Park Plan is underway, the RMC Planning grant is for \$ 293,000. The Plan seeks to develop a long range water conservation an park plan to establish a blueprint that will identify and create an inventory of: water efficiency, conservation, runoff, filtration, infiltration, etc. problems and solutions; and sites available for new parks or green space, including pocket parks along the Los Angeles River Bike Path bordering the eastern City boundary. The plan will act as a tool to identify future funding opportunities to perform the necessary infrastructure projects that will address the City’s water and park issues. Studies will be performed citywide to explore much needed water and park infrastructure projects. These identified projects and issues will be examined and solutions found based on existing design strategies available in the City’s drafted “Green Streets Manual” and “Low Impact Development (LID) Guidelines” specific to managing wet weather and urban runoff. The Long Range Plan will work in collaboration with the LID Guidelines and Green Streets Manual.

View Park and Recycled Water System Development Project (RMC17001): The View Park and Recycled Water Development Project is underway, this grant to the City is for 2,000,000 which includes a wildlife corridor project in the City of Signal Hill that will establish a new 1.86 acre park and the associated construction of a recycled water system. The project will reclaim a municipally owned industrial site and provide a recycled water system to serve the proposed park as well as retrofit three existing parks and the Promontory Home Owner's Association common landscaped areas, connect an urban trail system, prevent runoff pollution from contaminating the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers and annually save approximately 40 acre feet of potable water.

Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB MUST) Project (RMC 17009): The Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment (LB-MUST) Project is underway, this grant to the City is for

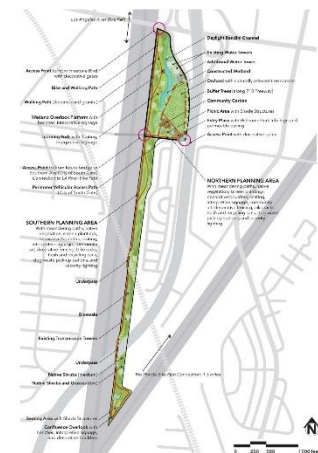
\$2,000,000 and will improve water quality by intercepting and treating the dry weather flows and a portion of the first flush of stormwater runoff normally discharging into the Los Angeles River. The byproduct of the LB-MUST water quality treatment is recycled water which can be used to sustain proposed wetlands riparian habitat. The wetlands will be part of the total treatment train of the LB-MUST as well as function as a storage basin for the recycled water.

West Coyote Hills Open Space Acquisition (17007): Grant to the City is in the amount of \$2,000,000 for this acquisition. The City of Fullerton is aggressively pursuing funds to acquire 38.3 acres of available remaining undeveloped land that, when acquired, will enable 359 species to thrive and two million residents living within 10 miles to enjoy about 340 acres of the last remaining contiguous natural open space in north Orange County.

The City of Fullerton requests the maximum of \$2 million in land acquisition funding to acquire "Neighborhood 1" of West Coyote Hills. Funding for acquisition of this property would assist in purchasing 10.4 acres of open space adjacent to Robert E. Ward Nature Preserve. This acquisition provides the opportunity to preserve important urban space and contribute to additional natural lands, maintain a wildlife corridor, and restore and sustain important habitat and biological species.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Acquisition of the Bryant Properties (RMC 17013): This grant to the LCWA is in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) currently owns approximately 172 acres of coastal wetland habitat within the Lower San Gabriel River watershed in the Cities of Seal Beach and Long Beach and the LCWA is seeking to acquire the frontage and remaining Bryant-Dakin, LLC Properties located along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue in the City of Long Beach, totaling approximately 18 acres (Los County Assessor Parcel Nos 7237-020-053 and 7237-020-054). The LCWA is seeking to acquire the remaining two Bryant-Dakin LLC retained parcels that extend across the San Gabriel River and along the Haynes Cooling Channel at 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue. The west parcel is approximately 12 acres in size and is south along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street/Westminster Avenue and the east parcel is approximately 6 acres located on the isthmus just north of the LCWA Property on the east side of the San Gabriel River.

Planning for the Urban Orchard Development (17006): Planning for the Urban Orchard Development grant to the Trust for Public Land is in the amount of \$845,000 and is an exciting project that will transform 30 acres of unused, vacant land between the I-710 Freeway and the LA River into new, critically needed green infrastructure and an urban park, including an urban orchard and over one-mile of new riverfront walking and bike paths. Project deliverables include a detailed concept plan for the entire 30-acre site, a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate stormwater best management practices to be utilized at the site, and a complete set of construction drawings for the upper 18.2 acres of the project area that include an orchard with culturally-relevant tree species, community gathering spaces, picnic areas, interpretive elements, native plants, and walking and bicycle paths that will eventually connect with the existing bike path along the LA River.



Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project (17011): The Parkway Basin Water Quality Improvement Project grant to the County of Los Angeles is in the amount of \$268,500 and includes the construction of 30 parkway basins in the unincorporated Los Angeles County. A Parkway is typically defined as the area between a road's curb and the sidewalk. Parkway basins are designed to capture and treat stormwater and dry season flow (urban runoff), utilizing urban runoff for irrigation and facilitating infiltration to groundwater.

These basins are constructed by excavating and lowering a portion of parkway, then cutting an opening in the curb to facilitate the flow of water from the street. The basins contain rock reinforced slopes to prevent erosion, along with the vegetation which will detain, remediate, and help infiltrate urban runoff. When a basin is full, any additional urban runoff will be unable to enter and will continue to travel in the gutter eventually to the storm drain system. Parkway basins have been successfully constructed for many years in numerous cities including: Tucson, Arizona; New York City; Portland, Oregon; and other municipalities. Locally, parkway basins have been constructed successfully in Panorama City and Studio City.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration Project (17014): This grant is to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) in the amount of \$1,000,000. The Los Cerritos Wetlands is one of the last remaining estuarine systems in southern California, located in the Cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach. The LCWA recently adopted the Final Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) in August 2015 with the next step being environmental review of the CRP. The LCWA is seeking grants funds to complete the environmental review of the CRP which is required to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. Environmental review of the CRP's three proposed alternatives or a hybrid alternative may result in joint Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

San Gabriel River Wetland Restoration Development (17012): This \$541,384 grant is to the Discovery Center Authority for this multi-disciplinary endeavor that will enhance a unique site where watershed ecosystems, and cultural history exist in a highly urbanized environment.

Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Project (RMC 17017): Grant to the City of Lynwood in the amount of \$1,692,575. The Lynwood Park Infiltration, Restoration, and Water Quality Improvement Project will replace the parking lot asphalt at Lynwood Park with permeable pavers; establishment of green space with native plants and shrubs in the parking lot perimeter; and installation of a bio-swale along the parking lot median, to improve stormwater management. This project is part of the Gateway Cities Regional Recycled Water System Expansion Project. The City of Lynwood along with 2 other cities in the southeast area of Los Angeles County and Central Basin received a grant to complete the design for an extension of the Central Basin recycled water system. This design has been completed and includes a stub out at Lynwood Park. Additional Funding for construction is being sought by the cities.

Emerald Necklace Rio Hondo and Peck Park Water Conservation Project (RMC 17015): Grant to Amigos de los Rios in the amount of \$617,385 for this project which will enhance biodiversity, water quality, stormwater & urban run-off management along Rio Hondo Emerald necklace & within Peck Park by adding green infrastructure elements along River Parkway. This area is located within eastern Los Angeles County's underserved El Monte and is adjacent to County Bike Trail, residential areas and schools. Arterials cross the right of way and produce runoff and air pollution that negatively impacts river parkway and local ecosystems. The proposed multi-objective water quality project will improve watershed health, habitat, and trails along the Emerald Necklace's Rio Hondo River. It will remove invasive plants and restore biodiversity by planting over 1175 native & drought-tolerant trees and shrubs suited to multi-year droughts.

CSUF Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure Improvement Project: The request for the RMC grant of \$1,000,000 towards the total project cost of \$3,324,655 has been withdrawn.

#### **WATERSHED CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

**Duck Farm Project:** A Caltrans ROW Ingress/Egress easement has been recorded and Maintenance and Operations Agreement approved for release. WCA has resubmitted and awaiting final plan check approval from LA County's Landscape Development Division's Roads and Streets division which will complete the

entitlement process and will clear the project for construction to begin and permits to be pulled. Additionally, WCA continues to work with the California Department of Industrial Relations on getting approval on the Agency's Labor Compliance Program (LCP), a requirement of the State Bond funding for implementation.

WCA is currently updating a project budget, construction schedule, and finalizing a bid document and anticipates going out to bid by late Spring/early Summer. Construction is expected to start by end of Summer 2018.



*The Phase 1A Duck Farm project involves the development of a 30+ acre river adjacent park project that includes a neighborhood park entry, public access trails, riparian landscape, a native plant demonstration garden, native and low water meadows, a river overlook and interpretation features.*

**Emerald Necklace:** LA County Department of Public Works will be hosting an on-site planning charrette for the Rosemead Complete Streets Project within the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area and related to EMNECK priority project #5. The event will be held April 7<sup>th</sup>. RMC/WCA staff will support the community event and host an informational booth.

Additionally, a kick-off meeting with LA County Department of Public Works related to the San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan was held with WCA and applicable County departments in late January. DPW is finalizing a board report to LACBOS to be considered in this Spring to extend a professional services contract to WCA to support the 5-year planning effort.



The Emerald Neddace is an extraordinary 17-mile loop of bicycle and multi-use trails which links parks and open spaces along two waterways, the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo. Phase I's 16 projects will close gaps in this regional recreational trails network and increase access to hundreds of thousands of constituents. Ongoing efforts will also add gateways, signage and greening. Further phases identified in the feasibility study will continue to expand the system in following years, contingent on funding and public support.

### Westside Multi-Use Trail:

### A Trail for All User Groups

The primary benefit of the tack would be to create a continuous loop around the E wall. No idea for equations, and improve mechanical properties from a group. The secondary benefit is improving access to the E wall. Not clear what is meant by the last sentence.

- 12 **Multi-Use Trail:** A Bamboo Walk from Stone Highway 60 to the Garvey Community Center with Gates, Signage, etc.  

  - 13 **Underpass at Rosemead Blvd.**  

  - 14 **Street Access Ramps at Rosemead Blvd. with Gates & Signage**  






  - 15 **10 Freeway Underpass Improvements**  

  - 16 **Multi-Use Trail: Rosemead Blvd. to Valley Blvd.**  


### Whittier Narrows Connectivity:

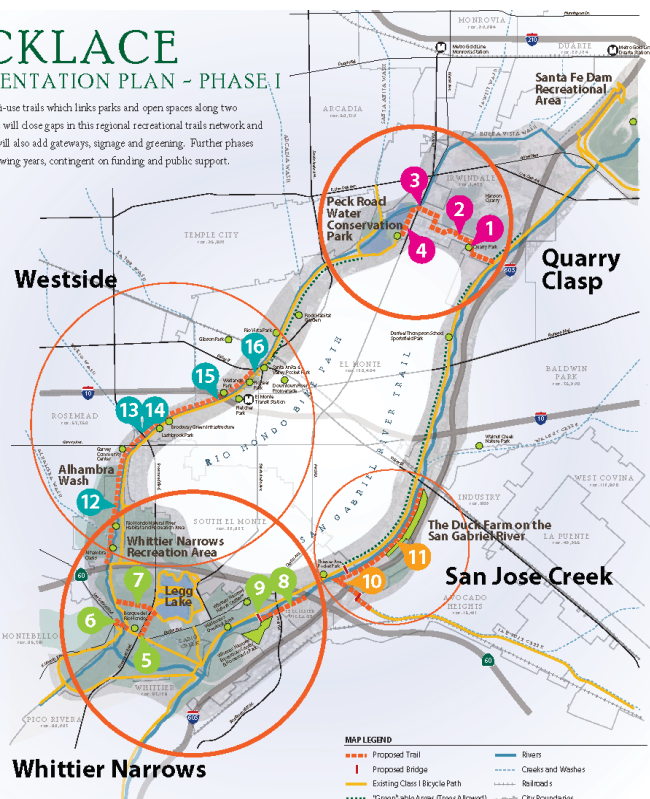
### Linking Existing Park Resources

Trail connections at the southern end of the section involve strategic placement of Chaco Hills path segments and new half-mile trails within the area. Internal circulation within the White Star Recreation area will be improved as pedestrian and bicycle paths are installed along the area's accessible, although car

- 5 **Class I Bicycle Path:**  
Adjacent to Rosemead Blvd., to Logy Lake  

  - 6 **Class I Bicycle Path:**  
From El Torqueo del Rio  
Hundred to Lincoln Ave., on  
San Gabriel Blvd., with  
Enhanced Signalized  
Crossing, Signage &  
Wayfinding  

  - 7 **Class I Bicycle Path:**  
From the Rio Hondo to  
Lake through the Scott  
California Edison Easement  

  - 8 **Multi-Use Trail:**  
Pulaski's Villages from  
State Highway 60 to  
Horsman's Park  

  - 9 **Multi-Use Bridge:**  
Palisades Bridge at  
Horsman's Park  


### PROJECT COMPONENTS

- Project Components
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Greening<br>perforating<br>space  | Equestrian<br>Trail   | Multi-Use<br>Trail  | Rid/Bike/<br>Horse  | Street<br>Crossing  | Bridge<br>Underpass   | Tunnel<br>Entrance  |



### Quarry Clasp: Completing the Loop

**Multi-Use Trail extension projects** from Peck Road Water Conservation Park out to the Sun Orbital Road will connect the trailgap between the Cleo I bike route on the Peo Honda and the Sun Orbital Road.

- 1 Park Development with Trail, Gates, Signage and Amenities
- 2 Multi-Use Trail and Bike Paths
- 3 Signalized Crossing at Rock Road with Signage and Wayfinding
- 4 Rio Hondo Multi-Use Trail and Class I Bicycle Path: Connection in Rock Road Water Conservation Park

**San Jose Creek  
Regional Access:**  
*Connecting Communities  
East of the San Gabriel  
River*

Trail completion and creekbed-edge crossings will improve access to the Emerald Nec. for a significant population

- 10** Multi-Use Trails and 2 Multi-Use Bridges: From San Jose Creek Trail to San Gabriel River Trail
- 11** Multi-Use Trail: From San Jose Creek to the Duck Farm on the San Gabriel River

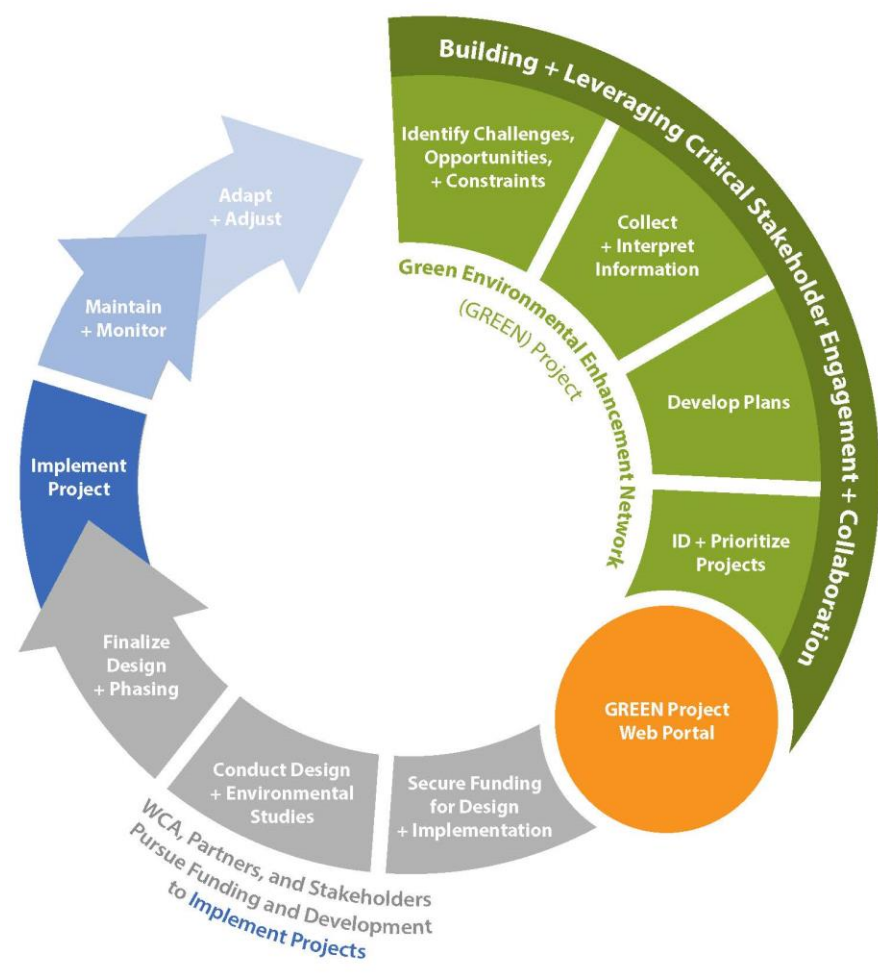


*The Emerald Necklace is a 17-mile interconnected network of existing and envisioned bikeways, multi-use trails, parks, and greenways along the Rio Hondo and the San Gabriel River. Along the Rio Hondo the Emerald Necklace stretches from Peck Road Water Conservation Park in the north to the Whittier Narrows Recreation Areas in the south. Along the San Gabriel River, it stretches from Hanson Quarry in the north to Whittier Narrows Recreational Area in the south.*

*The Emerald Necklace Implementation Plan – Phase 1 (Proposed Project) includes 15 related projects that would close gaps in a regional recreational trails network and increase access to the trails to hundreds of thousands of people in the project area.*

**San Gabriel Mountain Foothills Acquisition Opportunities:** WCA has contracted with Trust for Public Land to forward the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) grant to develop a comprehensive prioritized acquisition strategy and a recommended resource management and operations for the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. The first phase of the project to develop a methodology to evaluate and summarize opportunities for acquisition and feasibility of acquisition, which will identify public/private parcels and provide general market data has begun. As well as, initial inquiry meetings with perspective willing sellers.

**GREEN Project:** WCA is finalizing a professional contract with a web developer to prepare for a soft-launch of the GREEN Project Portal with the pilot Gateway Greening Plan providing the initial content. The soft-launch is tentatively planned for late April, with a formal launch in late September. When completed, the Portal will incorporate additional mapping analysis (developed with Dr. Weimin Li of Cal Poly Pomona), map features, and database functions as an integrated, interactive map tool. However, this expanded functionality is not expected for the soft launch or the Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening project scope, but as part of the larger GREEN project development in a later phase.

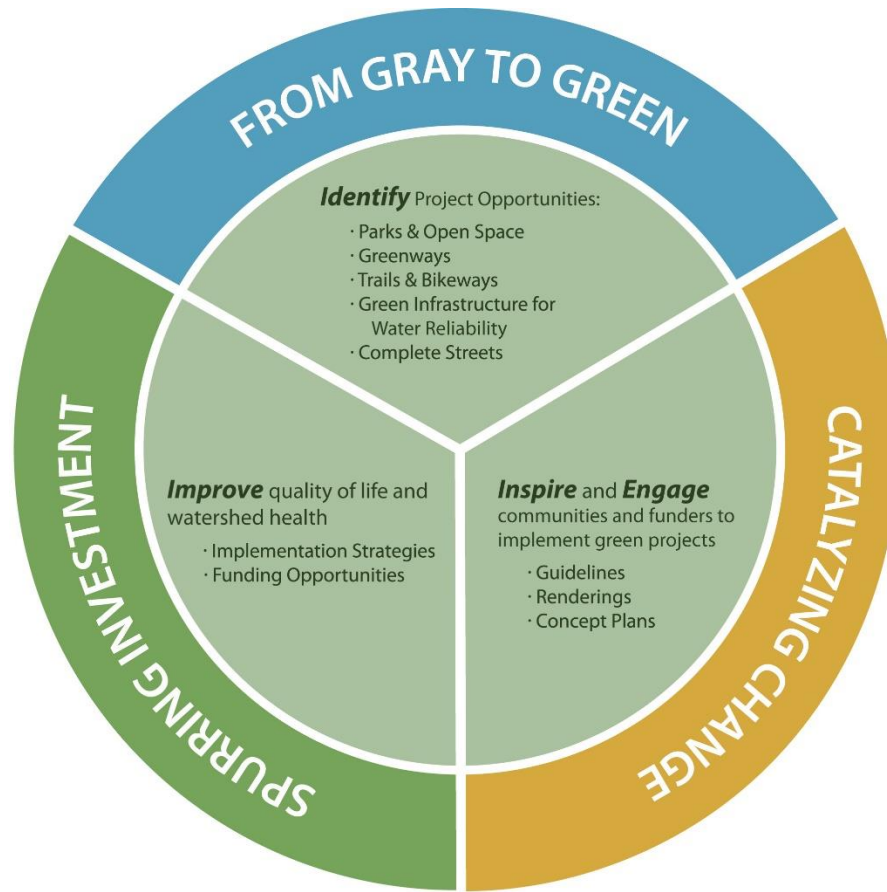


*The Green Regional Environmental Enhancement Network (GREEN) Project is a planning and project implementation initiative supporting watershed-based greening efforts to help support collaboration in the wider Los Angeles and Orange County area. The scope of the project includes regional data collection and assessments, identification of priority projects, and community engagement strategies culminating in the launch of an online GREEN project portal to share data and information, and to catalyze investments and positive change.*

**Gateway Cities and Rivers Urban Greening Master Plan:** WCA has contracted with the landscape architecture firm, Perkins and Will, to develop illustrative renderings and supportive plan and section view graphics for twelve (12) greenscape types to inspire grey to green infrastructure in our urban communities. WCA staff is currently finalizing their review of collected data, plans and community input as they begin to draft plan content and analyses.

WCA staff continues to meet personally with City staff throughout the Gateway Cities study area to provide an update on work completed to date, the plan intent and features, and to workshop how the deliverable would be most useful to cities, as well as, to collect priority project information to include in the plan. Stakeholder advisory meetings are held quarterly on the third Tuesday of every third month at the Gateway COG offices, with the next meeting planned for Tuesday, April 17th.





*With a grant from the Strategic Growth Council and partner collaboration the WCA is developing a green infrastructure plan for the Gateway Cities Region. The WCA is advancing collaborative integration of regional efforts as staff continues to engage in compatible regional planning initiatives—including the AB530 Lower LA River Working Group. Together with the RMC-funded GREEN Project the plan is organized as an interactive web platform positioned to facilitate coordination, planning efforts, and funding for greening projects across the Gateway Cities and beyond.*

**Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve:** WCA continues to work with MRCA Rangers, County Sheriffs, residents, and volunteers to support continued on-site maintenance at the Mt. Baldy Preserve property. To further support this coordination, WCA purchased and installed a job box on-site to facilitate equipment sharing between staff, residents, and volunteers.

*Acquired in 2014, the Mt. Baldy Wilderness Preserve is a 237+/- acre property located on the eastern extent of the Authority's territory, directly south of Mt. Baldy Village. This open space being preserved is in its undeveloped state. The site is publicly accessible for passive recreational use.*

**River Wilderness Park:** WCA participated in a collaboration meeting with SD1, LA County Department of Public Works and Caltrans representatives in March to strategize implementation of the roundabout and jointly applying for an Active Transportation Program grant. A follow-up meeting in April is planned to confirm Caltrans requirements for design within their right of way for the Roundabout. Following this meeting it is anticipated necessary state criteria will be identified to ramp up the Civil Engineering of the road improvements to allow for completion and permitting of the construction drawings. Further, due to pre-

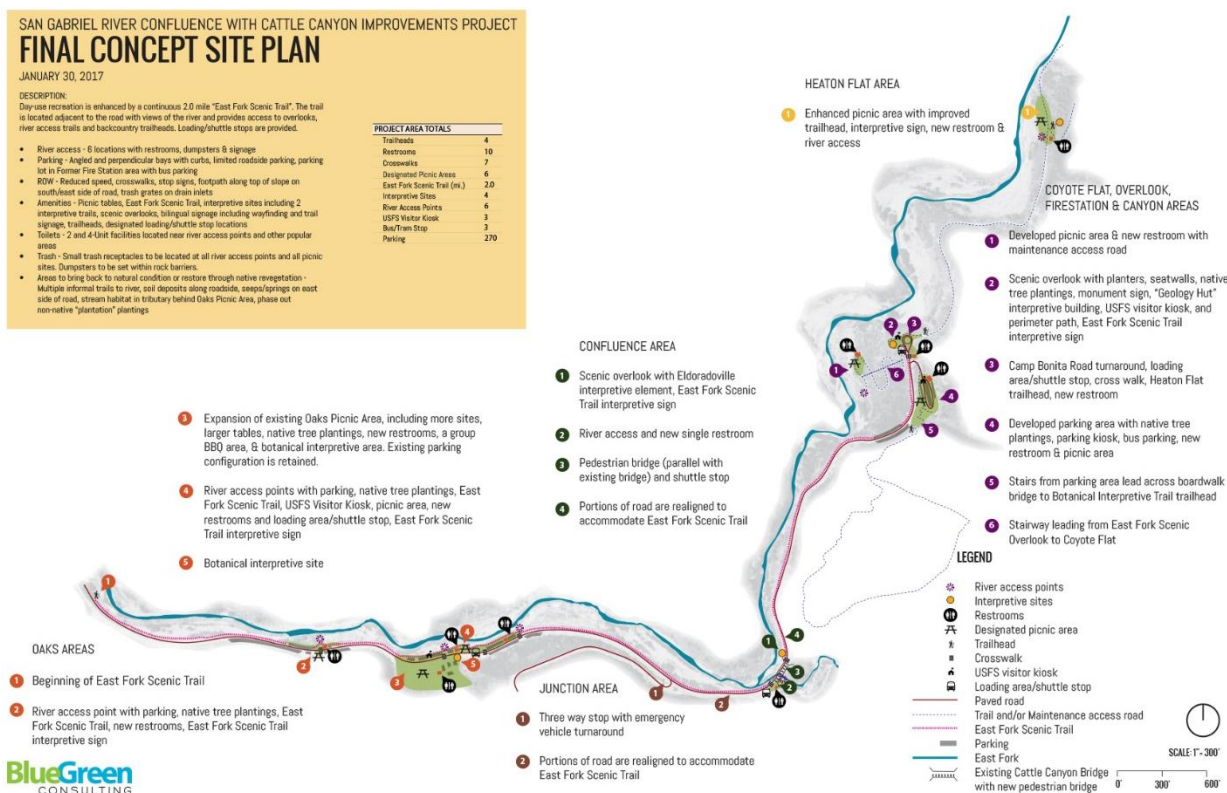
existing agreements between DPW and Caltrans, and well as expertise in road work that DPW will manage the Roundabout construction portion of the project. During the next several months, WCA will continue to work with City of Azusa related to permitting, as well as engaging the City and Azusa Light and Water to explore opportunities to bring public utilities to the park.



*The RWP is an approx. 118-acre property envisioned to provide unique wilderness experiences in the lower San Gabriel River Canyon comprised of engaging landscapes, gathering spaces, thriving habitats, and a regional hub and welcome center for the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument.*

**San Gabriel River Confluence with Cattle Canyon Project:** The Draft EIS/EIR was released for public comment on November 9, 2017 for a 45-day comment period ending December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017). During the public comment period, about 500 comments were received. 400 of the comments were generated using a form letter template created by Sierra Club (Sierra Club is a major project proponent but also wants to highlight plan improvements that their members have expressed); there are roughly 100 unique comments submitted.

The Project Team, which includes Forest Service staff, WCA, and consultants BlueGreen and ESA, is currently reviewing and responding to comments as they complete the Final EIS/EIR document. Next steps once comments are synthesized, the project team will initiate the US Fish and Wildlife consultation with a decision on the plan expected by the end of 2018.

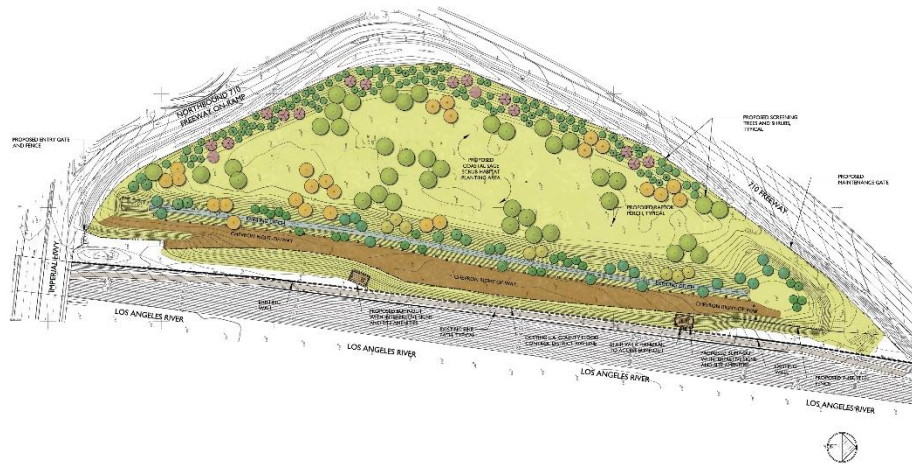


Along a 2.5-mile segment of the East Fork San Gabriel River recreational use is highly concentrated. This heavy use combined with the lack of facilities has resulted in degraded conditions. In response, the Cattle Canyon Project seeks to better manage the recreational use, and balance the needs for resource project within this area of the San Gabriel Mountains.

**South Gate Habitat Restoration Project/Parque dos Rios:** Long Beach Conservation Corps is evaluating sub-contractor proposals related to the overlook construction element (concrete, structural metals and retaining wall). Once LBCC has its internal agreements in place WCA will contract for construction with the Corps. Ground breaking is targeted by LBCC for Early Summer 2018 with construction substantially complete by December 2018 with planting to occur in November and December 2018 as the most preferential establishment window for native plant materials to thrive. In the interim, SWPPP has been completed for the project and permits are approved and ready to issue to contractor.

*Parque Dos Rios is a 7.8-acre site situated along the Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR) at the confluence with the Rio Hondo in the City of South Gate. The project will create a bike stop amenity for the LLAR trail, with overlook, shade structure, seating and interpretive graphics. The land will be planted with natives and a raptor perch installed.*





**Walnut Creek Habitat & Open Space:** The WCA is working with the Tzu Chi Foundation to secure entry and construction access to begin the construction of the West Phase developments making the site available to the public. The City of San Dimas is currently conducting site preparation and demolition work to be completed by the end of the month.

#### WALNUT CREEK – WEST PHASE ONLY



Acquired in 2008, the Walnut Creek Habitat and Open Space Property is a total of approx. 60.8 acres. The location is directly east of Bonelli Regional Park and along the Walnut Creek riparian corridor. Approximately 6.7 acres are owned by the City of San Dimas and 54 acres are owned by the WCA.

*After completing a conceptual development plan in coordination with the City of San Dimas the City secured County Proposition A funding in the amount of \$850,000 to begin initial West Phase development. The initial phase includes site clean-up, trail development and amenities (interpretive signage, benches, etc.) for a looped spur trail, habitat enhancements, and the planting of a vegetated buffer for neighbors. This will realize the improvements necessary to provide public access over a portion of the Project Site through the Antonovich Trail, accessible from four nearby County-operated trail staging areas.*

### **SAN GABRIEL RIVER DISCOVERY CENTER AUTHORITY**

SGRDCA continues to submit monthly project progress reports to LA Sanitation Districts as the Authority continues to receive funds from the Supplemental Environmental Project for design fees and administrative costs. Remaining plan check approval for grading permit and license is dependent on obtaining Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) approval, LA County Parks and SGRDCA consultants are engaged responded to ACOE comment letter dated May 2, 2017 at a meeting with the ACOE on October 17, 2017. A second meeting with the ACOE was held on December 7, 2017 where SGRDCA and LA County Parks was notified that the ACOE dam modification study takes precedence over all projects within the impact area. Previously, SGRDCA Board provided direction for staff to explore additional opportunities for completion of the Discovery Center Project at the May 22, 2017 Board work session. The Board review of all opportunities and decision to approve an alternative will take place at the next scheduled SGRDCA Board Meeting anticipated for May 24, 2018.



*The San Gabriel River Discovery Center Project is 5.9 redevelopment that will replace the existing Whittier Narrows Nature Center (WNNC) with the following enhancements: constructed wetland, naturalized bioswale, Walnut Woodland restoration, habitat buffer, two outdoor classrooms, interpretive center with exhibits, vehicular access and parking, pedestrian pathways and other interpretive elements. The Center's mission is to inspire environmental stewardship by providing accessible and engaging watershed and environmental education to the public.*

### **AZUSA-RMC JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**



The approval of the Authority budget for fiscal year 2018/19 will take place at the next meeting on June 14, 2018. The presentation and discussion on the status of the Garcia Trail and the Azusa River Wilderness Park will be presented at the next meeting scheduled for this same date. The meeting will take place at 6:30pm at the Azusa River Wilderness Park/El Encanto Building in Azusa.

### **LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY**

#### **KAYAKING TOURS**

The LCWA hosts kayaking tours on a regular basis in collaboration with Tidal Influence and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust as a way to inform and engage the public regarding the Los Cerritos Wetlands. The most recent kayaking tour took place on Friday February 2, 2018 with the participation of Speaker Anthony Rendon (AD 63), the Army Corps of Engineers, the Office of Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (AD 70), The Nature Conservancy, Mark Stanley, LCWA, and Marybeth Vergara, RMC/LCWA Staff.

See the photos:



In August 2017, The LCWA approved a contract to the consulting firm of Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to provide consultant services on the Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan Program Environmental

Impact Report (LCWA 16003). This contract scope includes the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) which was approved by the LCWA Board in 2107. The consultant, ESA, will perform a scope of services that includes the development of an optimized restoration plan, the production of a program Environmental Impact Report for the restoration plan, and associated public outreach and project management. The proposed study is for 2 years and 3 months with an anticipated completion date by November 3, 2019 for not to exceed contract amount of \$800,000.

The project will result in the adoption of a Program EIR for which the LCWA will be the Lead Agency. Both the restoration planning and development of the EIR will include a public involvement process.

This contract will be funded by Proposition 1 Grant Funds awarded to the LCWA by the State Coastal Conservancy and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Planning and Restoration. The performance period for this contract is August 3, 2017 - November 3, 2019.

Additional information regarding the Conceptual Restoration Plan can be found at <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org>.

The Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) will host the first public workshop for the next phase of restoration planning for Los Cerritos Wetlands at 6:00pm on March 28, 2018 at the Mary Wilson Library in Seal Beach. This phase will build on the previous work completed for the Conceptual Restoration Plan and will culminate in a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

This Program EIR is the next step in the LCWA's efforts to provide a comprehensive restoration framework for the Los Cerritos Wetlands. Past work completed by the LCWA includes identification of existing opportunities and constraints for restoration, public access and interpretation, and the Los Cerritos Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan (LCW CRP). The Final LCW CRP was adopted by the LCWA Board of Directors in August 2015.

Using information contained in the Final LCW CRP, this current exercise will design an optimized restoration design for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands complex. This alternative will be studied, and potential impacts analyzed in the Program EIR.

What: Public Workshop for Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan  
Where: Mary Wilson Library (707 Electric Ave, Seal Beach, CA 90740)  
When: Wednesday, March 28, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Beginning at 6 p.m., the LCWA's consulting team, spearheaded by Environmental Science Associates (ESA), will lead the public through a workshop intended to provide a refresher of previous efforts and an overview of the steps ahead.

Regarding acquisition activities, the LCWA authorized the Executive Officer to enter into a option agreement with Los Cerritos Wetlands, LLC for the conveyance of real property.

#### **OFFER TO DEDICATE**

The LCWA proposes to transfer the property commonly referred as "Offer to Dedicate" (OTD) Parcel, described as APN 7237-019-809, approximately 5.11 acres to the Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC for their property commonly referred as Steamshovel Slough, described as APNs 7237-017-010; 7237-017-011; 7237-017-012; 7237-0217-013; 7237-017-014; 7237-017-019; 7237-017-805; 7237-017-806; 7237-017-807; 7237-017-808; 7237-017-809, approximately 154 acres. The LCWA continues to negotiate with LCWLLC to ensure all the conditions are met as set forth in the Option to Purchase Agreement. Recently, the City of Long Beach in coordination with Los Cerritos Wetlands LLC hired ESA to draft the Environmental Impact Report. Please visit the LCWA website at <http://intoloscerritoswetlands.org/> for more detailed information.

Finally, LCWA has ongoing monthly public programs at Los Cerritos Wetlands through the Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program. See the attached flyer for additional information.

ALL PROGRAMS MEET  
@ 1st Street and PCH  
in Seal Beach!  
See map on reverse  
for location



Presented by:



## Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program Events July - December 2017

### Guided Nature Walks

LCW Land Trust sponsors guided nature walks  
**8:00 am - 10:00 am on the 1st Saturday of each month**  
Contact: [elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org) for details  
**Upcoming Dates: July 1st, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd**

### Habitat Restoration Events

**10:30 am - 12:30 pm on the 1st Saturday of each month**  
Contact: [info@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:info@tidalinfluence.com) for details  
**Upcoming Dates: July 1st, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd, Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd**  
Participants are eligible to win prizes at each event!

### Trash Clean -ups

LCW Land Trust sponsors monthly trash clean ups at Zedler Marsh  
**10:00 am - 11:30 am on third Fridays**  
Contact: [info@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:info@tidalinfluence.com) for clean-up event details  
**Upcoming Dates: July 21st, Aug 18th, Sep 15th, Oct 27th\*, Nov 17th, Dec 15th**  
**\*Note Oct 27th is a 4th Friday**

### Wetlands Kayak Tours

LCW Land Trust sponsors kayak tours of Los Cerritos Wetlands  
**8:30 am - 12:00 pm on certain Sundays**  
Contact: [elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org](mailto:elizabeth@lcwlandtrust.org) for tour details

### El Dorado Audubon Bird Walks

El Dorado Audubon sponsors 2 monthly bird walks in 2 different areas of Los Cerritos Wetlands  
**Hellman Property: 8:00 am - 10:00 am on the 2nd Saturday of each month**  
**Zedler Marsh Property: 3:00 pm on the 4th Sunday of each month**  
Contact: [eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com](mailto:eldoradoaudubon@yahoo.com) for details

#### **Upcoming Dates:**

**Hellman: July 8th, Aug 12th, Sep 9th, Oct 14th, Nov 11th, Dec 9th**  
**Zedler Marsh: July 23rd, Aug 27th, Sep 24th, Oct 22nd, Nov 26th, Dec 17th\* (\*3rd Sunday)**



### What do I need to know?

- \*Close-toed shoes are required for all programs
- \*These wetlands are wildlands, dress accordingly
- \*We encourage bringing reusable water bottles!
- \*Service-learning credits provided at all events!
- \*Children under the age of 14 MUST be accompanied by an adult
- \*Participants receive exclusive access to explore and restore Los Cerritos Wetlands!
- \*If interested in group restoration or education opportunities contact:  
[info@tidalinfluence.com](mailto:info@tidalinfluence.com)
- \*Want to learn more about Los Cerritos Wetlands?  
Visit our website:  
[www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org](http://www.intoloscerritoswetlands.org)  
Facebook:  
[saveloscerritoswetlands](https://www.facebook.com/saveloscerritoswetlands)